

DEC. 2013-JAN. 2014

Protect against power surge damage

In every home, costly electronics and appliances are at risk for damage from power surges caused by many factors including lightning strikes or power restoration after an outage. You should protect your valuable electronics and appliances by connecting them to surge protectors available at most hardware and home improvement stores. Make sure when you purchase a surge protector it comes with an insurance policy. Most homeowners insurance and utility companies do not cover damage to personal property from electrical surges.

Are you planning any electrical work?

Any electrician hired to do work on your electric service must first get a Utility Authorization Number from RMLD. The UAN collects important data regarding additional loading to help determine any necessary system or service upgrades RMLD may need to make. It must appear on an Electrical Work Permit the electrician obtains from your Town Hall's Permit Department. Your electrician is not charged for this number. Please have your electrician call our Meter Department at 781-942-6456 before beginning any electrical work at your home.



In Brief

Make sure your home is grounded

Snow, rain, wind, heat and lightning can create adverse effects on the electrical distribution system that provides power to your home's service feed. Make sure that your home is properly grounded to help provide any potential surges with a safe path to the ground. Secondary surge protection devices and individual surge protectors can also provide a level of protection. Most surge protection devices come with insurance.

The utility is not responsible for the operation, maintenance or inspection of a customer's installation or for damage to a customer's equipment resulting from volt-

age surges, which may occur on the customer's wiring. Proper grounding should be in accordance with the National Electrical Code or any other applicable Code enforced by the wiring inspector. Your home electric system, including your service panel, meter socket, service entrance cable, grounding electrodes, etc. should be viewed similar as your heating system; requiring periodic inspections, possible maintenance and updates.

A licensed electrician can inspect your home grounding system and provide you more information on secondary surge protection systems.

See our holiday lobby attractions

If you visit our Ash Street office during the holiday season, be sure to check out the amazing train display created by retired RMLD Chief Engineer Paul Carson, who meticulously builds tracks and villages for children to enjoy each year—complete with Santa and all the bells and whistles.

While at our lobby, you can also see a display of the winning T-shirts from our annual school contest, or pick up an RMLD gift certificate at the Customer Service window. Certificates are credited to customer electric bills and are available in any denomination.



Bring the kids to RMLD's lobby to see this holiday train display.

RMLD LED CONVERSION PROJECT – The Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce Holiday Lighting Committee accepts RMLD's LED holiday lights for the Towns of Reading and North Reading. RMLD also participates with LED holiday light conversion projects in Lynnfield and Wilmington.



RMLD Directory

Customer Service & Billing

781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598

Customer Service Manager

781-942-6480

Emergency

781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598

Payment Locations

RMLD office:

230 Ash St., Reading
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Drop box is in the parking lot.

Town of Reading drop box

Town Hall parking lot
16 Lowell St., Reading

Lucci's

223 Lowell St., Wilmington
Drop box inside door-daily pick-up

New England Beverage

158 Main St., North Reading
Outside drop box only

Reading Co-operative Bank at these locations:

Reading: 180 Haven St.

North Reading: 170 Park St.

Wilmington: 230 Lowell St. and
352 Middlesex Ave.

Holiday Closings

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1
New Year's Day

Monday, January 20
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Meetings

Call 781-944-1340 or visit
rml.com for upcoming meeting
information.

Events

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:30 to 7:30
p.m., Rotary Clubs of Reading and
North Reading – Taste of Metro
North, Reading Memorial High
School Field House, 62 Oakland
Road, Reading. Tickets \$25
individual, \$50 family. Snow date
is March 5. Call Priscilla Gottwald
at 781-942-6419 for tickets or visit
tasteofmetronorth.com.

Know *your* emergency shelters

The Emergency Management Directors in your town oversee disaster response planning, coordination of multi-agency response and the recovery phase for all disasters. The directors are: Reading – Fire Chief Greg Burns; North Reading – Theo Kuliopulos; Wilmington – Fire Lt. John Brown; Lynnfield – Fire Chief Joseph Lingel.

In certain emergencies you may need to evacuate to an emergency shelter. In Reading, shelters are the Reading Memorial High School Field House, 62 Oakland Road or the Coolidge Middle School, 89 Birch Meadow Drive. In North Reading, it's the Batchelder School, 175 Park St. In Wilmington, it's Wilmington

Middle School, 25 Carter Lane. Lynnfield shelters are Lynnfield Middle School, 505 Main St. or Lynnfield High School, 275 Essex St.

During declared emergencies, listen to media reports, follow social media announcements or call 911 for shelter information. If your town has a reverse 911 system, you will be notified of emergency shelters. When heading for a shelter, bring your medications, toiletries, pillow and blanket and any other needed personal items.

If you know a person who is elderly, has a disability or a language barrier, you could develop a neighborhood plan to assist them.

CONGRATULATIONS – Jack Devir of Reading, center, won the lighting raffle at RMLD's Public Power open house last month. RMLD and Home Depot partnered to award a \$500 LED light home retrofit to a lucky RMLD customer. Here, RMLD Public Relations Manager Priscilla Gottwald and Home Depot Assistant Store Manager Michael Leavy present the prize. A summary of savings will be put on our website in January.



COMMUNITY NEWS



- **Burbank YMCA** will host a Holiday Extravaganza on **Dec. 13, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**, with holiday crafts, songs and Santa. Bring a camera to take pictures. An open house is set for **Jan. 11, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Join group exercise classes, visit the Ask the Trainer table, and see staff members ride a bike during a daylong cycle-thon.

- **Reading Public Library** invites you to do your holiday shopping in the Library's main lobby, where The Friends are selling books and calendars aimed at helping you finish your gift list. You can also visit their new website at readingpl.org to learn about library programs, download free music (Freegal), learn a language (Mango), connect with an expert tutor (Tutor.com), check

your investments (Morningstar) and check the ratings for your next big purchase (Consumer Reports).

- **Flint Memorial Library** in North Reading will hold Holiday Bow Making on **Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.** with Colleen Perry of Brissonte Boutique. Call 978-664-4942 to register. Mary Bonina will read from her new memoir, "My Father's Eyes," on **Jan. 21, at 7 p.m.**

- **Wilmington Library** will present How to Create an Attention Getting Resume on **Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m.** with Bonnie Petrovich, a certified career and executive coach. Topics will include must-have and optional resume sections in today's marketplace. Bring a copy of your current resume. Music through the Decades

is the topic on **Jan. 30, at 2 p.m.** when David Polansky will use a keyboard, trumpet and vocals to evoke different musical eras. Register for both events at wilmlibrary.org.

- **Lynnfield Library** welcomes you for conversation and light refreshments on **Jan. 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** when the BookLovers group discusses "The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer House" by George Howe Colt. Curious about Cuisine will meet on **Feb. 12** (snow date Feb. 13), at **3 p.m.** for Baking at Home with Christine Picariello. All are welcome to attend this tasty event at the Meeting House on the Common. Contact Nancy Ryan at ryan@noblennet.org for details about both programs.

READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

230 Ash Street, Reading, MA • 781-944-1340 • 781-942-6598 • Fax: 781-942-2409

• E-mail: pgottwald@rml.com www.rml.com